

tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 11:05 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR174 on Apr 23, 2015 11:00AM*

SCR174

Submitted on: 4/21/2015

Testimony for VMI on Apr 23, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
VETERANS, MILITARY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**Thursday, April 23, 2015
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 174, SENATE DRAFT 1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY, HONOLULU BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY, AND NAVY TO
EXPEDITIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE
LEGISLATURE BY THE RED HILL FUEL STORAGE FACILITY TASK FORCE.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 174, Senate Draft 1 requests the Department of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, Honolulu Board of Supply, and Navy to expeditiously implement the recommendations of the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility Task Force. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

Our underground aquifers are the major source of drinking water for the people of Hawaii. We have a public trust obligation to protect and preserve the quality and sustainability of this valuable resource for current and future generations.

Underground storage tanks are a potential major threat to the public trust water resources of the State. It is critical that all owners and operators of underground storage tanks regularly monitor for leaks using approved methods, maintain adequate records, and meet corrosion protection, spill, and overfill requirements as required by the Department of Health. These systems are prone to leak over time, as evidenced by the recent case regarding the Red Hill fuel storage tanks.

The Department notes that a representative from the Department's Commission on Water Resource Management participated on the Red Hill Task Force that was led by the Department of Health. The Department defers to the Department of Health regarding implementation of the expanded task force work outlined in this resolution, the appropriate mechanisms to bring all fuel storage tanks

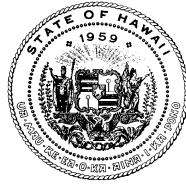
CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

and systems into a uniform compliance standard, and the technical details and implementation of measures outlined in this resolution.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of S.C.R. 174, S.D. 1

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY, HONOLULU BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY, AND NAVY TO
EXPEDITIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE
LEGISLATURE BY THE RED HILL FUEL STORAGE FACILITY TASK FORCE**

REPRESENTATIVE KEN ITO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Hearing Date: **April 23, 2015**
Time: **11:00 A.M.**

Room Number: **312**

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of SCR 174
3 which requests the U.S Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Honolulu
4 Board of Water Supply, and the DOH to expeditiously implement the recommendations of the
5 Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility Task Force. Some of the key recommendations included the
6 installation of additional groundwater monitoring wells, increased monitoring and sampling
7 activities, and encouraging the U.S. Navy, EPA and the DOH to finalize a negotiated agreement
8 to protect the ground water resource around the facility. However, this resolution goes even
9 further by urging the U.S Navy to install double-lining at the Red Hill tanks.

10 The DOH is committed to taking measures required to prevent the future releases from all
11 underground storage tanks. In an effort to address the challenges presented at Red Hill, the U.S.
12 Navy, Defense Logistics Agency, the EPA and the DOH are completing the ongoing
13 negotiations that are designed to produce an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). The AOC
14 is intended to establish a process to make well-researched, well-planned and cost-effective
15 improvements to protect the groundwater resources beneath the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage
16 Facility by using the best available technology.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

18

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843



April 23, 2015

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair
and Members
Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs,
and Culture and the Arts
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 312
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair and Members:

Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution 174, SD 1: Requesting the Department of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, Honolulu Board of Water Supply and Navy to Expediently Implement the Recommendations Submitted to the Legislature by the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility Task Force

We strongly support Senate Concurrent Resolution 174, SD 1.

Oahu's groundwater aquifers are natural resources held in trust for the benefit of the people under Section 1, Article XI of the Hawaii State Constitution. Section 7 of this Article further states "the State has an obligation to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit of its people." Our groundwater's protection from contamination is therefore a public trust responsibility and essential to public health and safety through its ability to sustainably deliver safe drinking water.

Tests performed since 2005 continue to show the presence of petroleum contaminants in the groundwater underneath the Red Hill fuel tanks, which contain 187 million gallons of fuel located one hundred feet above a State designated drinking water aquifer. Other studies document the original steel tanks wearing from corrosion, their mounting age and the risks of a large catastrophic fuel release. These findings describe a situation that threatens our groundwater and urgently requires action to strengthen the twenty steel tanks and clean-up the existing petroleum contamination to protect our aquifer from irreparable degradation and loss. It also indicates that existing tank maintenance and modernization programs are not keeping pace with controlling the petroleum detections in the groundwater or containing them. According to the United States Environmental

The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair and Members
April 23, 2015
Page 2

Protection Agency, the Red Hill fuel tanks are field-constructed tanks that are very large and pose a substantial threat to human health and the environment (Federal Register, Vol. 76, No. 223, p. 71732).

This resolution affirms our public trust responsibilities to prevent future leaks, clean-up the existing contamination underneath Red Hill, identify where it is migrating, and installing the measures to keep it from polluting existing pristine wells with determination and resolve. It also asserts our duty to protect our groundwater and environment from contamination that is certainly preventable.

Oahu's groundwater is our only large source of drinking water. There are no other natural resources or cost effective alternatives that can produce the same amount of water to take its place. Its protection from contamination, preservation and sustainability must therefore be pursued, without exception, for the benefit of Oahu's residents now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,



ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer